

Psychedelic use and availability stable over time

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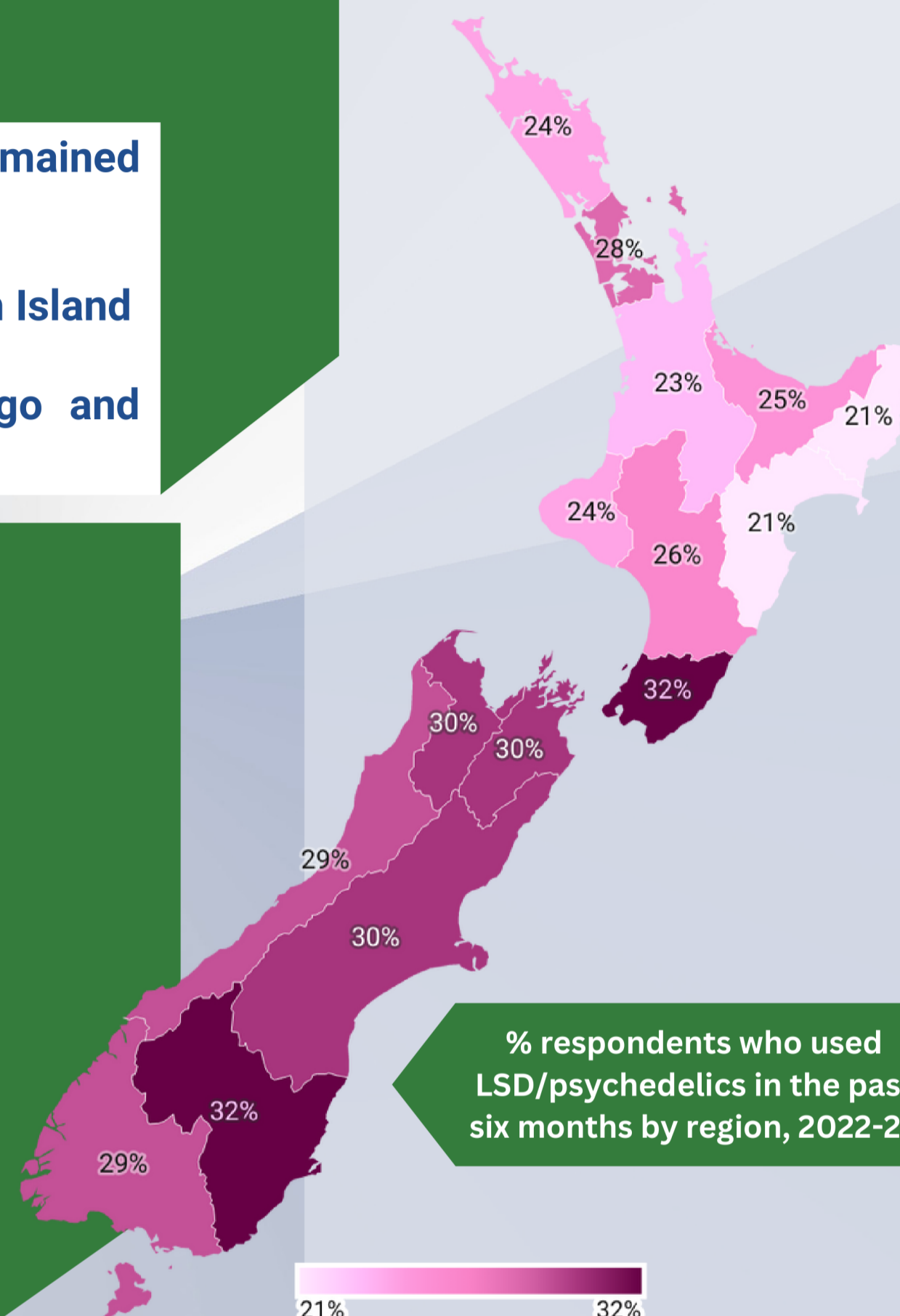
Key findings

- Rates of LSD/psychedelic use among NZDTS respondents have remained relatively stable since 2017
- However, LSD/psychedelic availability has increased since 2017
- LSD/psychedelic use was higher in the South Island than the North Island
- Average price of a tab of LSD has been declining since 2018
- The lowest prices per tab were reported in Canterbury, Otago and Wellington

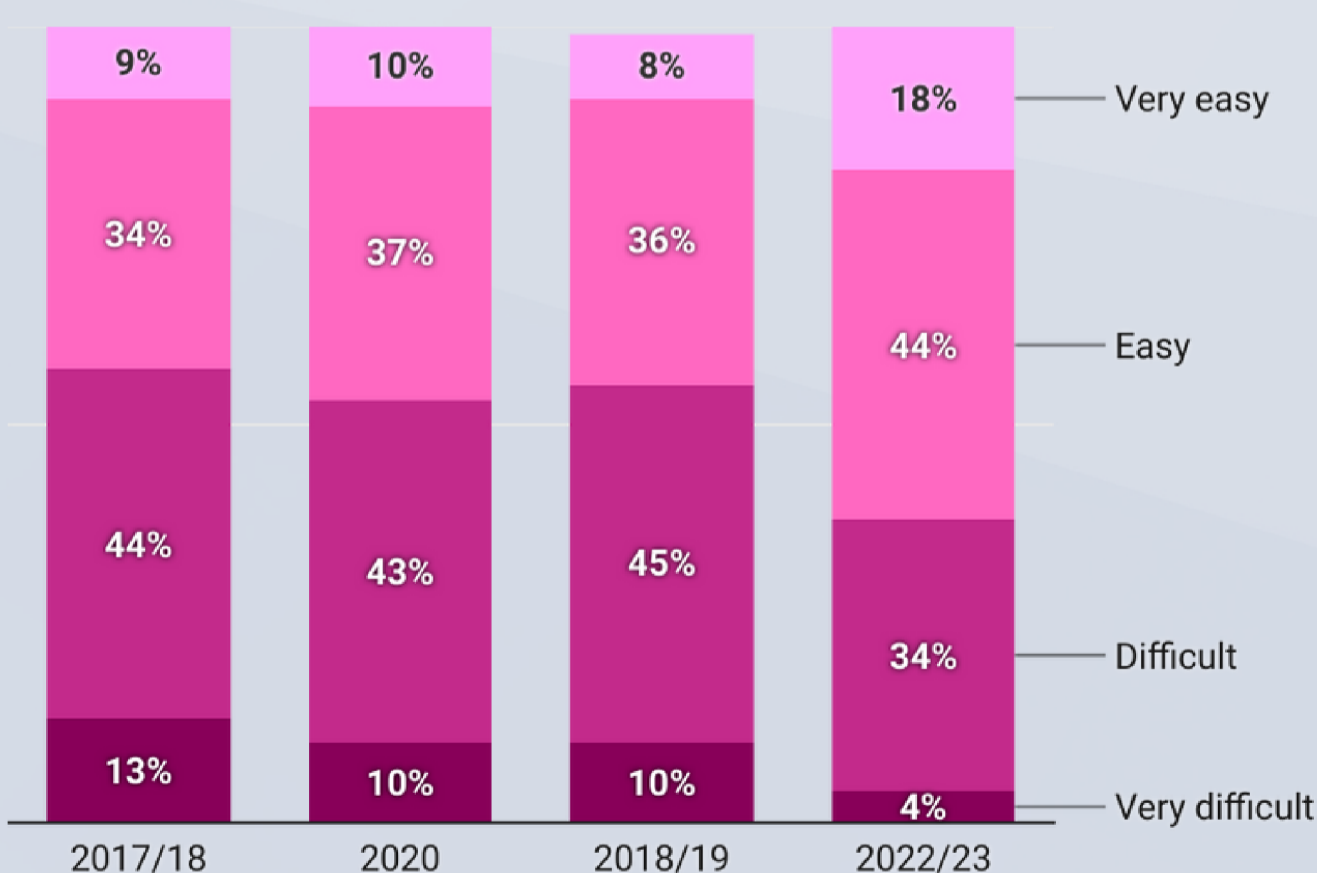
Methods

The New Zealand Drug Trends Survey (NZDTS) is an anonymous online convenience survey designed to provide an annual snapshot of drug market trends in Aotearoa New Zealand. It surveys a very large number of people with recent experience and knowledge of drug use and drug markets across the country (i.e., key experts). The NZDTS is promoted via a targeted Facebook advertising campaign over a period of several months. Completed surveys are audited based on the extent and quality of completion. The 2022/23 survey ran from August 2022 to February 2023 and achieved a final sample of 13,026. Respondents were asked about their use of psychedelics in general, including "LSD" and mushrooms.

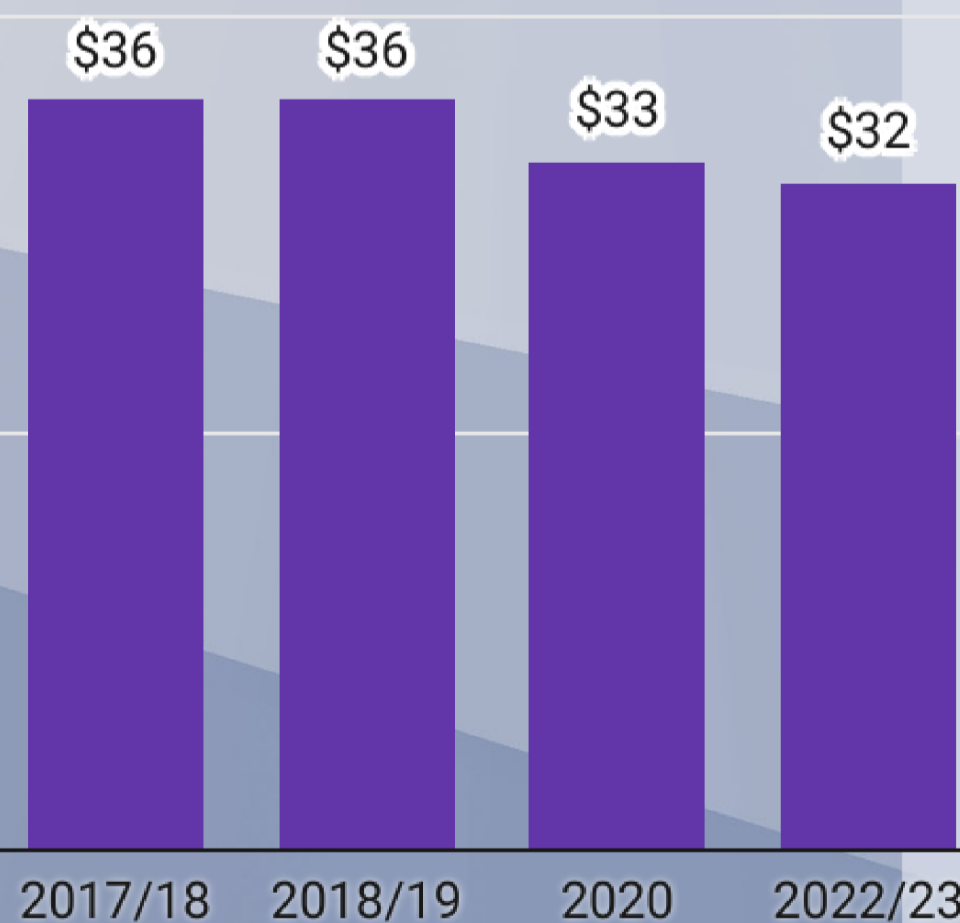
While the NZDTS is not intended to be a representative survey, it has a sample that broadly represents the demographic profile and regional population distribution of NZ (see Bulletin 6 for details). However, related to the aims of the survey, the NZDTS sample reports much higher levels of drug use (see Bulletin 7) and is younger than the general population. For more details on methods see, Wilkins et al. (2020) Determinants of the retail price of illegal drugs in New Zealand. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 79, 1-10.



LSD/psychedelic availability reported by NZDTS respondents over time, 2017-23



Average price of a tab of LSD, 2017-23



Discussion

Historically, rates of LSD/psychedelic use in New Zealand have consistently been high compared to many other countries. Increasing availability of LSD/psychedelics and lower retail prices for LSD may reflect the impact of new supply sources such as the darknet, and the proliferation of hallucinogenic NPS, such as NBOMe-type substances, which may be marketed and sold as 'LSD'. Higher rates of LSD/psychedelic use in the South Island may in part reflect recent fluctuations in MDMA availability (Bulletin 3).

